

**TEXAS TECH UNIVERSITY HEALTH SCIENCES CENTER AT EL PASO**  
**Paul L. Foster School of Medicine**  
**GRADUATE MEDICAL EDUCATION**  
**Policy**

**TITLE:** Eligibility and Selection Criteria

**PURPOSE:** To set forth criteria for the eligibility and selection of prospective trainees.

**REVIEW:** This policy will be reviewed every two years by the Graduate Medical Education Committee (GMEC).

**POLICY STATEMENT:** Texas Tech University Health Sciences Center El Paso (TTUHSCEP) Paul L. Foster School of Medicine (PLFSOM) shall assure that all selected trainees for Graduate Medical Education (GME) are eligible for training.

1. **Eligibility:** Applicants with any one of the following qualifications are eligible for appointment of graduate medical training programs at PLFSOM:
  - a. A graduate of a medical school in the United States and Canada that is accredited by the Liaison Committee on Medical Education (LCME);
  - b. A graduate of colleges of osteopathic medicine in the United States accredited by the American Osteopathic Association (AOA);
  - c. A graduate of a medical school outside the United States and Canada who meet one of the following qualifications:
    - 1) Has received a currently valid certificate from the Educational Commission for Foreign Medical Graduates (ECFMG) or,
    - 2) Has a full and unrestricted license to practice medicine in a United States licensing jurisdiction in which the ACGME program is located.

**Resident Eligibility Exception**

**3.3.b. Resident Eligibility Exception**

The Review Committee will allow the following exception to the resident eligibility requirements:

*[Note: A Review Committee may permit the eligibility exception if the specialty requires completion of a prerequisite residency program prior to admission. If the specialty-specific Program Requirements define multiple program formats, the Review Committee may permit the exception only for the format(s) that require completion of a prerequisite residency program prior to admission. If this language is not applicable, this section will not appear in the specialty specific requirements.]*

3.3.b.1. An ACGME-accredited residency program may accept an exceptionally qualified international graduate applicant who does not satisfy the eligibility requirements listed in 3.2. – 3.3., but who does meet all of the following additional qualifications and conditions:

- 3.3.b.1.a. evaluation by the program director and residency selection committee of the applicant's suitability to enter the program, based on prior training and review of the summative evaluations of this training; and,
- 3.3.b.1.b. review and approval of the applicant's exceptional qualifications by the GMEC; and,
- 3.3.b.1.c. verification of Educational Commission for Foreign Medical Graduates (ECFMG) certification.
- 3.3.b.2. Applicants accepted through this exception must have an evaluation of their performance by the Clinical Competency Committee within 12 weeks of matriculation.

An applicant to any residency or fellowship program must be subjected to a Criminal Background Check (HSC OP 10.20) prior to training. Any individual listed by a federal agency as excluded, suspended or otherwise ineligible for participation in federal programs are ineligible for residency or fellowship.

Non-citizens must have authorization to work in the U.S.

2. **Selection:** GME programs must select appointees, from among eligible applicants, on the basis of each applicant's preparedness, ability, aptitude, academic credentials, communication skills, and person qualities such as motivation and integrity. However, programs must not discriminate with regard to sex, race, age, religion, color, national origin, disability, or any other applicable legally protected status.

Most first-year (PGY-1) residency positions should be offered through the National Residency Matching Program or another national matching program. Programs that consider applicants who are medical students at the time of consideration must do so through a national matching program. When programs do not fill through the MATCH, off-MATCH residents may, subsequently, be appointed to unfilled positions as long as they meet institutional standards.

An applicant who is seeking to transfer from another GME program shall be subject to additional requirements. Per ACGME requirements, the program director of the applicant's current program must provide written verification of the individual's previous educational experiences and a summative competency based performance evaluation prior to acceptance of a transferring resident, and milestones evaluations upon matriculation.

In addition to the aforementioned guidelines, the Texas Medical Board mandates a physician-in-training permit for all trainees entering Texas GME programs. A selected applicant shall not be allowed to enroll in his/her program until he/she has been issued a permit or a Texas Medical License.

Prior to accepting an applicant for residency, the Program Director shall verify that the applicant has passed USMLE Step 1 and Step 2 CK or COMLEX Level 1 and Level 2 CE, as applicable. Passage of licensing examinations must be within the number of attempts indicated by the Texas Medical Board (TMB) for Texas licensure.